



SITTINGBOURNE AND MILTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

on the

PUBLIC HEALTH

and

HEALTH AND WELFARE

SERVICES

for

1948

COLONEL W. H. CRICHTON, C.I.E., I.M.S. (Ret.)

M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.P.H. (Lond.)

Medical Officer of Health



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R. J. Goldsmith *

Mrs. G. E. High *

E. J. Mears *

F. J. Millen *

H. I. Price *

Mrs. M. H. Rees *

J. Varley *

W. Wyllie *

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Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee

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Mr. C. F. Cloke

Councillors :

A. J. Bottle

A. Cockell

M. F. Davis

L. M. Easton

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D. Knowles

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Dr. Eileen Mallinson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Health Visitors :

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Miss N. Moon, S.R.N.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. Alexander Leslie, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

Mr. A. H. Hayes, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

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Mrs. P. Atkins

Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council

HEALTH OFFICES,
JOHNSON HOUSE,
BURLEY ROAD,
SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
July, 1949.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Second Annual Report on the state of the public health and on the Health and Welfare Services in the District during the Year 1948.

As in the preceding year, my Report has been arranged in seven main sections, the last four of which have been contributed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Leslie, and incorporated, with my interpolations, in this Statutory Report.

The salient points in this Report to which I would draw your attention are:—

- (a) the low Birth Rate - 17.8 per mille - (vide page 7) ;
- (b) the satisfactory drop in the Infant Mortality Rate to 22 per thousand births - (vide page 9);
- (c) the rise in the number of Infectious Diseases notified - (vide page 11);
- (d) the satisfactory conclusion of a Diptheria Immunisation programme involving 1,305 School Children bringing the Immunised Rate to approximately 90% - (vide page 15);
- (e) the transfer of Maternity and Child Welfare Services from the Council to the County Council as Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act on 5th July, - (vide page 16);
- (f) the very unsatisfactory slaughterhouse conditions existing in Sittingbourne and the urgent need for alternative accommodation; and
- (g) the excellent analysis on the deplorable housing situation by Mr. Leslie, the Chief Sanitary Inspector - (vide pages 35 - 39).

I have made reference to the serious housing shortage in my first Report, and it is a matter of regret that circumstances have made it impossible for the Council to provide more than 53 houses in the year. It is a terrible thought that, even at the rate of 60 houses per annum, the existing waiting list will not be satisfied for *over eleven years*. The Report of the Royal Commision on Population which has just been issued advocating larger families without insisting on the main essential, namely an adequate number of

homes for the people, seems to be lacking in a complete appreciation of the situation. In my view it is disgraceful to condemn a large section of the people, mostly young people, to the existence they now endure for such an indefinite period of time. The situation is so serious as to justify investigation into the means by which the present rate of house building could be expedited either by new plans, new methods or new materials.

For the second year in succession I beg to draw the attention of the Council to the deplorable Slaughter-house in Sittingbourne about which, nothing so far appears to have been done. The matter deserves the urgent consideration of the Council and, if the Ministry of Food have no definite plans for its improvement, I would urge that the Council consider its replacement by a modern abattoir to deal with the large area now served by the slaughter-house, at the earliest possible moment.

I am fortunate in having on the Staff of the Health Department an excellent team of Sanitary Inspectors and Clerks and, until the coming of the National Health Service, of Health Visitors. To all of them I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation of their co-operation and assistance of which this Report is an official record.

I wish also to thank my colleagues on the Council Staff, principally the Clerk (Mr. Allen) and the Finance Officer (Mr. Bowen) for their unfailing courtesy and help whenever I have sought their assistance.

I remain your obedient servant,

W. H. CRICHTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

1. CLIMATOLOGY

The Winter of 1947-48 was a mild one but the Summer was marred by a spell of cold rainy weather. The monthly temperature and rainfall readings recorded in the Area are shown in Appendix I.

2. AREA IN ACRES

Land and inland water	...	...	...	...	4,935
No change.					

3. POPULATION

Estimated mid-year 1948	...	...	...	...	22,240
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	--------

This figure shows an increase of 680 over the estimated population of the preceding year, and of 3,100 over the population of 1946.

4. NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES

6,339.

The number of inhabited houses shows an increase of 50 since the previous year.

5. RATEABLE VALUE

£131,340 15s. 0d.

6. SUM REPRESENTING PENNY RATE

£447 3s. 9d.

7. BIRTHS

(a) *Live Births*

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	...	204 (273)*	181 (236)*	385 (509)*
Illegitimate	...	4 (14)	8 (9)	12 (23)
Totals	...	208 (287)	189 (245)	397 (532)

The percentage of illegitimate births was 3.1% (4.5%)*

The total number of births was 135 less than that of the preceding year representing a difference of 25%.

FOOTNOTE.—*Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

(b) *Birth Rate*

Per 1,000 of estimated population ... 17.8 (24.4)*

The new birth rate is the lowest recorded since the end of the War and reflects the difficulties which are being experienced by the people in building up a family and their reluctance to increase their liabilities.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1948 was 17.9 per thousand.

(c) <i>Still-Births</i>		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		4 (6)*	3 (8)*	7 (14)*
Illegitimate		- (1)	- (-)	- (1)
Totals		4 (7)	3 (8)	7 (15)

The percentage of still-births to live births was 1.7. It was 2.8 in the preceding year.

8. DEATHS

(a) The total number of deaths from all causes was 228, of whom 135 were males and 93 females. The corresponding figure for the preceding year was 248, of whom 127 were males and 121 females.

(b) The corrected *Death Rate per thousand* of the estimated population was 10.2 as compared with 11.5 in the preceding year, and 10.9 in 1946.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1948 was 10.8 per thousand.

(c) *Causes of Death*.—(i) It is impossible under the existing system to show the deaths recorded under age groups by causes of death. The figures in Table I. below are those produced by the Registrar General.

FOOTNOTE.—*Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

TABLE I

Disease	Males	Females
Whooping Cough	2 (—)	— (—)
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system	7 (6)*	1 (—)
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1 (2)	— (—)
Syphilitic Disease	1 (—)	— (—)
Influenza	1 (1)	— (1)*
Ac. Polioencephalitis	— (1)	— (—)
Cancer of buc ; cav : and Oesoph (M)	1 (1)	— (—)
Cancer of buc : cav : and Uterus (F)	— (—)	4 (—)
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	6 (10)	2 (3)
All other sites	9 (13)	11 (11)
Cancer of Breast	— (—)	5 (2)
Diabetes	2 (—)	1 (—)
Intracranial vascular lesions	13 (17)	13 (29)
Heart diseases	52 (38)	33 (43)
Other diseases of circulatory system	5 (2)	5 (1)
Bronchitis	4 (5)	4 (3)
Pneumonia	6 (4)	3 (8)
Other respiratory diseases	4 (2)	1 (1)
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3 (—)	— (1)
Diarrhœa, infantile	— (1)	— (—)
Appendicitis	— (1)	— (1)
Other digestive diseases	4 (1)	2 (2)
Nephritis	6 (2)	3 (3)
Maternal causes		
(other than Puerperal fever)	— (—)	— (1)
Premature birth	— (2)	1 (2)
Congenital malformation		
Birth injury	2 (5)	1 (—)
Infant diseases		
Suicide	— (2)	— (2)
Road traffic accidents	— (4)	— (—)
Other violent causes	2 (5)	— (4)
All other causes	4 (2)	3 (3)
TOTALS ...	135 (127)	93 (121)

(d) Comment.—(i) There is little difference in the proportion of the different causes of death relative to the total number recorded. Thus *heart diseases* constitute 35.5% as against 32.6% in the previous year and is still the cause with the greatest prevalence ; *intracranial vascular lesions* show a lower percentage—11.4% as against 18.5% ; and the percentage of *Tuberculosis* deaths is slightly higher at 3.9% as compared with 3.1% in 1947.

(ii) For the fourth year in succession no maternal death from puerperal causes has occurred.

9. INFANT MORTALITY

(a) The number of deaths of infants under one year was less in 1948—8 deaths—than in the preceding year—17 deaths, representing respectively an *Infant Mortality Rate* of 22 per thousand

* Figures in brackets relate to preceding year

live births and 32 per thousand in the previous year. This is indeed a welcome decrease and reflects great credit on the services provided for the welfare of infants both during and after confinement, and during their first critical year of life.

(b) The detailed causes of death among infants were as follows :

TABLE II

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Prematurity	—	1
Congenital malformation or birth injuries ...	2	1
Subacute Liver Atrophy (10/12)	—	1
Whooping Cough (aged 1/12 and 2/12) ...	2	—
Broncho-Pneumonia (7/12)	1	—
TOTALS ...	5	3

(c) The Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 34 per thousand.

10.—NATURAL INCREASE IN POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths during the year was 169 or 42.5%. In the preceding year the difference was 284 or 53.3%. In the year 1946 the difference was 220 and in 1945 it was 148.

SECTION II.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES THEIR PREVALENCE AND CONTROL

1. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The number and character of infectious diseases notified during the year is tabulated as follows:—

TABLE III

Disease	No. of Cases	Admissions to Hospital or Sanatorium	Deaths
Ac. Polioencephalitis	— (1)*	— (1)	— (1)
Ac. Poliomyelitis	— (4)	— (4)	— (—)
Scarlet Fever	18 (24)	17 (22)	— (—)
Diphtheria	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (2)	1 (—)	— (—)
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1 (2)	1 (2)	— (—)
Measles	438 (75)	— (—)	— (—)
Whooping Cough	188 (33)	3 (—)	2 (—)
Pneumonia	3 (1)	— (1)	— (—)
Erysipelas	3 (4)	1 (4)	— (—)
Malaria	— (1)	— (1)	— (—)
Dysentery	— (4)	— (—)	— (—)
Food Poisoning	15 (28)	— (—)	— (—)
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	19 (16)	9 (10)	4 (5)
Non-Pulmonary	6 (3)	3 (2)	1 (2)
TOTALS	692 (199)	35 (48)	7 (8)

* Figures in brackets relate to figures of the preceding year.

TABLE IV.
Age Groups of Cases Notified

	Under 1 Year	1 - 3	3 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 60	60 and over	Total
Scarlet Fever	—	2	2	10	2	1	—	—	1	—	18
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	18	104	104	200	6	4	2	—	—	—	438
Whooping Cough	24	45	51	61	1	—	4	1	1	—	188
Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Food Poisoning	—	3	—	—	—	—	4	3	5	—	15
Tuberculosis:—											
Pulmonary	1	—	—	—	—	8	3	2	4	1	19
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	6
TOTALS	44	155	157	272	11	15	14	7	14	3	692

2. COMMENT

(i) The large increase in the incidence of infectious diseases as compared with the preceding year is accounted for by the regular biennial epidemic of measles which this year was unusually widespread, and by an epidemic of whooping cough.

(ii) The previous epidemic of MEASLES (1946) accounted for only 114 cases as compared with 438 during the year under review. The attacks were fortunately of mild character and no fatalities occurred. The age groups mainly affected were children of school age and toddlers.

(iii) (a) The WHOOPING COUGH epidemic was more severe and was responsible for two deaths among infants. The small number of fatalities does not however truly represent the degree of distress suffered and there is a growing demand by the public for protection by vaccine. Unfortunately no decision has yet been arrived at on the efficacy or otherwise of the whooping cough vaccine as a prophylactic against the disease.

(b) While certain workers claim important results under carefully controlled experiments (e.g., Madsen, 1933, Sauer, 1937, Kendrick and Elderling, 1939), others such as McFarlan, Topley and Fisher (1945) "were unable to find support for the view that whooping cough vaccine is of value in the prophylaxis of whooping cough." Further advances have been made in the experimental field, but nothing has so far transpired from the experiments which are being conducted in the County. The advice of this Office to those who seek protection, therefore, remains—it will do no harm, and it might quite well do some good.

(c) The age groups mainly affected were infants, toddlers and children of school age, but it will be noted that a few odd cases occurred in the higher age groups, one in the 45-60 age group.

(iv) It will be noted with satisfaction that no case of DIPHTHERIA occurred during the year. Only one mild case was reported in the preceding year, four in 1946 and two in 1945. This provides a striking proof of the efficacy of Diphtheria Immunisation (vide page 15).

(v) Another matter for satisfaction is that no cases of PUERPERAL FEVER were notified during the year.

(vi) (a) The fifteen cases of FOOD POISONING notified were the remains of the outbreak which occurred in late 1947. None of the cases in this group was infected with any of the known organisms associated with food poisoning and as Medical Practitioners were specially requested to report any case exhibiting gastro-intestinal symptoms at the time of the outbreak, it is probable that these

were simply cases of diarrhoea which were unconnected and the exact cause of which was not discernible.

(b) During September a number (undetermined) of cases of food poisoning connected with an anniversary celebration luncheon in London are known to have occurred in the District, but none was actually notified. The majority of the cases occurred in the Faversham District and are included in the Report on that District. This was definitely a *Salmonella typhi murium* infection which was responsible for a large number of cases of varying severity, and one death.

(c) A special lecture and demonstration on Food Poisoning was held at the Town Hall on 19th February. This unfortunately happened to be the day on which a severe blizzard occurred and the attendance was therefore small. In addition a number of lectures to Senior School Children were given on the same subject by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and myself.

(vii) TUBERCULOSIS—(a) The increase in the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified is small—19 pulmonary cases as against 16 in the preceding year, and 6 non-pulmonary cases as against 3. The number of deaths from Tuberculosis was 7; the figure in the “summary” is shown as 10 because of three deaths which occurred in the last quarter of the preceding year.

(b) The shortage of sanatorium bed accommodation continues to be a matter of grave concern particularly so in view of the overcrowded conditions under which people are obliged to live. Nothing could be more opportune than the Government announcement that B.C.G. vaccination on a limited scale is to be introduced. In my view the experience gained in Scandinavian Countries over a period of 25 years would justify its adoption as a preventive measure on a very wide scale in this Country, especially so in the difficult circumstances existing to-day.

(c) The work of the Tuberculosis Care Committee assumes even greater importance under the conditions of enforced segregation of cases at home, and it is with satisfaction that I am able to record that as a Member of that Committee I have been able to keep in closer touch with the cases and to render assistance wherever it was possible for me to do so in my capacity as Medical Officer of Health.

(d) The Summary of the Tuberculosis Register of the Year is as follows:—

TABLE V.
Summary of Tuberculosis Register

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
On Register on 1st Jan. 1948 ...	102	28	130
Notified as "new" cases ...	19	6	25
Transferred to District ...	5	2	7
Restored to Register	1	1	2
TOTALS ...	127	37	164
Died	10*	—	10
Recovered	3	1	4
Removed from District ...	4	2	6
Diagnosis changed	5	3	8
TOTALS ...	22	6	28
Balance remaining on 31st Dec., 1948	105	31	136

* One death occurred in December, 1947

3.—VENEREAL DISEASES

I am indebted to the County Venerealogist for the following figures relating to attendances at the V.D. Clinic by patients from this District:—

TABLE VI

	Males	Females	Total
Syphilis	2	5	7
Gonorrhœa	3	—	3
Non-Venereal (Genital Lesions)	6	3	9
Totals ...	11	8	19

The above refer to new cases during the year. The total number of attendances was 428.

4.—VACCINATIONS AND INNOCULATIONS

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

(a) During the first-half of the year a special programme of diphtheria immunisation of school children was carried out in all the Schools in the District. It was found that although the majority of school children had received primary immunisation in infancy,

few had had the benefit of "booster" immunisation at School age. In all 1,222 children received "booster" doses and 83 children, who had missed the opportunity of primary immunisation in infancy, were immunised. As far as could be ascertained this programme brought the percentage of protection among school children to approximately 95%.

(b) In addition to the School programme, primary immunisation clinics were continued at Johnson House on the first Monday of every month. Attendances were excellent until the coming into force of the National Health Service, since when there has been a marked drop due mainly to the fact that many mothers now seek to have their children immunised against whooping cough at the same time and the County Council do not provide this facility at their clinic. In view of the fact that prophylactic inoculation against whooping cough can be obtained free on request by Medical Practitioners, it appears advisable to extend this facility at County Immunisation Centres, even though the efficacy of the measure has not yet been fully proved.

(c) Diphtheria Immunisation is now one of the responsibilities of the Local Health Authority (the County Council) under the National Health Service Act. It is not my place to discuss the wisdom of this centralisation of function, but it does seem extraordinary that the Medical Officer of Health of a District, who might have to deal with an outbreak of the disease, is not in a position to know what degree of protection exists among the population under his care.

(ii) Vaccination Against Smallpox

(a) Since the devolution of this function to the County Council, it has been possible for vaccination against smallpox to be carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic and by the end of the year 36 infants had been vaccinated at Johnson House. There is immense scope for the extension of this Service for the protection of people but a great deal of propaganda and education is required before any considerable deviation from old established prejudice among the people can be hoped for.

(b) As in the case of Diphtheria, the Medical Officer of Health is not in a position to know what degree of protection against smallpox exists among the population under his charge.

SECTION III.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICE

(i) These Services passed into the care of the County Council on 5th July, 1948, the appointed day for the coming into force of the National Health Service Act. It is a matter of satisfaction that it was possible to hand over to the Local Health Authority a good and popular service. Had it been possible to augment the Staff of Health Visitors to a figure commensurate with local requirements, it could have been said that the service was excellent. One Health Visitor per 250 births is not enough in a scattered Urban District when one considers the attendances required at the various Ante and Post-Natal Clinics and Infant Welfare Clinics. At this rate it is impossible to expect a high standard of work in the education of the people in the hygienic way of living in their homes, and there is no margin in the Staff for absence through illness or holiday. These recommendations have been passed to the County Council.

(ii) Before the handing over, the District Council had the satisfaction of inaugurating the scheme for the transportation of expectant mothers to Minster under circumstances more comfortable to their condition and to see the growth in popularity of the Family Planning Clinic and Relaxation Training in Pregnancy Clinic which they had established in the preceding year. Indeed it was only the restrictions imposed by the lack of accommodation at Johnson House which made further expansion impossible in the Relaxation Classes which have rightly earned the confidence of all expectant mothers.

(iii) The Maternity and Child Welfare Services in Sittingbourne are seriously handicapped by the fact that a large section of the population served live in Kemsley and Murston, localities which are far enough from Johnson House to deter any but the most determined mothers to push a pram, particularly in inclement weather. The obvious solution is the opening of branch Clinics in these "suburbs," but this is impossible at the present moment owing to the lack of suitable accommodation. Negotiations were opened by this Office in the early part of the year with interested parties in each area, but regrettably it was found impossible to arrive at any solution. The necessity of these Clinics has been impressed on the County and it is to be hoped that, as soon as circumstances permit, suitable buildings will be erected to take up this function and so to ensure that a larger section of the public are afforded the facilities and advantages provided by a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

(iv) Another serious disability from which the Maternity and Child Welfare Services suffer is the extremely cramped accommodation available at Johnson House. The District Council have for some time had plans prepared for suitable extensions and these are now being considered by the County Council.

(v) To mark the transfer of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services to the County Council, the Sittingbourne and Milton District Council awarded a Silver Christening Mug to the last baby born of a mother attending the Ante-Natal Clinic. The presentation was made by the Chairman at a very successful Children's Xmas Party given at the Town Hall in December which was attended by some 400 mothers and children. The presentation Mug bore the inscription:—

“Presented to Mary Ann Addiscott whose birth marks the close of an era during which the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council were privileged to care for the welfare of Mothers and Children of the District.”

(vi) Much of the success of the Welfare Services was due, not only to the devotion to duty of the Staff, but also to the enthusiastic assistance given by Voluntary Assistants who were invited to help at the Clinics in a scheme inaugurated by the District Council in January. The personal interest which these ladies have been able to introduce into the formality of Clinics has been of incalculable value, quite apart from the practical services which they have rendered in assisting with weighing, record keeping and the sale of foods. The thanks of the community are due to the ladies who so generously and selflessly offered their services at these Clinics, namely:—Mesdames Burgess, Porter, Bartlett, Cook, Packer, Randall, Lines, Monk, Parrett, Bowes, Carey and Miss Jones.

(vii) The need still exists for a clarification and reorganisation of the Services available to the expectant Mother and her child so as to prevent the overlapping which is at present liable to occur as between Medical Practitioners, Midwives, Health Visitors and Welfare Centre Clinics. It should be possible for each to be allotted a special function and that all should work as a co-ordinated team instead of working disjointedly as is the case at present.

(viii) The National Health Service Act has had no appreciable effect on the attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics. Soon after “the appointed day” there was a distinct falling off in attendances when it was realised that a Doctor could be consulted for babies' ailments free of charge, but when it gradually became apparent to many mothers that the function of the Clinic was not that of treatment but of *prevention of ailments* by the supervision of progress and the giving of advice as babies grew, there has been a gradual swing back to the Clinic. The average monthly attendances for the first half of the year was 45.4 (infants and toddlers) per clinic, and in the latter half 38.6.

(ix) The one immeasurable advantage conferred by the National Health Service Act is the provision of free Hospital treatment for cases of confinement and difficult labour. The crippling costs involved have been the source of a great deal of anxiety and distress to many unfortunate couples and it is a matter of great satisfaction that this worry has been forever dispelled.

2.—ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

During the first part of the year when the District Council still bore the responsibility for illegitimate children and their mothers, arrangements were made for the admission of these cases to suitable Homes for confinement and rehabilitation.

3.—HOME HELPS

This Service has also passed to the County Council under the National Health Service Act. By the appointed date the District Council had supplied 18 Home Helps at a total cost of £151 9s. 6d. of which the Council had accepted responsibility for £43 4s. 8d.

4.—HOSPITAL FACILITIES

(a) The management of the Infectious Diseases Hospital is now under the Regional Hospital Board and this Office has had no information regarding any changes in the accommodation available or whether the scheme envisaged for the provision of a partition or cellular ward to take a wider range of cases has matured. Suffice it to say that the Doctor in charge of a complicated case of measles which occurred in a neighbouring District encountered immense difficulties in finding any Hospital to accept the case which was thought to require operative treatment.

(b) The disinfection of bedding has been seriously hampered since "the appointed day" by the transfer of a vehicle hitherto kept at the Keycol Hospital for the transport of infected clothing to and from the Hospital. It is hoped that a new vehicle for this and other purposes will be acquired for the Health Department.

5.—SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

(a) By courtesy of the County Medical Officer I am able to include the following figures of the findings of the School Health Service among the school population in Sittingbourne and Milton :

(i) Total number of children inspected ... 1,286.

(ii) Commonest defects found—

Footnote : At the time of going to press the average attendances for the first five months of 1949 have risen to 48.2 per Clinic.

Defect	Requiring		Total	Percentage
	Treatment	Observation		
Nose and Throat	82	95	177 (209)	26.7 (29)
Orthopædic defects :—				
(a) Posture	13	8	119 (95)	18.0 (13.3)
(b) Flat foot	31	24		
(c) Other	25	18		
Eyes :—				
(a) Defective vision	53	19	85 (74)	13.0 (10.2)
(b) Squint	4	3		
(c) Other	5	1		
Ears :—				
(a) Hearing	14	10	51	7.7
(b) Inflammation	11	9		
(c) Other	3	4		
Unclassified defects	48	30	78 (115)	11.8 (15.9)

(iii) Classification of the general condition of School Children—

	Number Inspected	A (Good)	B (Fair)	C (Poor)
Entrants	295	58.3% (84)	36.3% (13.4)	5.4% (2.6%)
Second Age Group ..	393	78.3% (28.2)	20.9% (58.8)	0.8% (13%)
Third Age Group ...	286	58.0% (54.1)	35.0% (42.1)	7.0% (3.8%)
Other periodic Inspections	312	28.8% (79)	60.9% (20.1)	10.3% (0.9%)
	1,286	57.2%	37.3%	5.5%

Footnote :—Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year

It will be noted that, compared with the preceding year, there has been an appreciable decrease in the percentage of children in the lowest category and a corresponding increase in the middle (fair) category, though there has been a falling off in the best category.

(iv) Dental inspection and treatment:—

(a) Number inspected by Dental Officers (Periodic and special inspections)	625 (1,289)
(b) Number found to require treatment	269 (775)
(c) Percentage	43% (60.1%)
(d) Number actually treated	399 (616)
(e) Percentage	63.8% (82.7%)

Whether the reduced numbers compared with the preceding year reflect the effect of the National Health Service Act on the School Dental Service I am not in a position to state.

Footnote : Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

SECTION IV.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.—WATER SUPPLY

(a) The water supply for the Urban District is derived from two sources, i.e., the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council's Water Undertaking and the Mid-Kent Water Company.

(b) The majority of houses have a piped water supply within the premises. There are still a small number of houses, on the periphery of the town, which derive their supply from wells. A number of houses are supplied by means of common standpipes.

(c) (i) The supply from both public sources of supply during the year has been adequate both as regards quantity and quality.

(ii) Shortage of supplies of piping have made it impossible to extend the benefits of a good water supply in several cases affecting seven houses where the shallow well water supply was found to be contaminated. The tenants have meanwhile to be content to boil all water used for drinking.

(d) (i) 25 samples from the Sittingbourne and Milton Urban District Council and the Mid-Kent Company's mains were submitted for bacteriological examination by the County Pathologist. The results were satisfactory in each case.

(ii) 4 samples of well water were submitted for bacteriological examination by the County Pathologist. In the cases of two samples from deep bores the results were satisfactory and the other two samples from shallow wells were declared to be unfit.

2.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

(i) There have been no important alterations to the sewerage system during the year.

(ii) The precise number of cesspools in use in the town is not known. As opportunity occurs the Department continues to press for their abolition where main drainage is available.

(iii) During the year 4 cesspools were abolished. In three cases the premises were connected to the sewer and in the other the premises were provided with an efficient septic tank system of sewage disposal. 1 Privy and 4 Pail closets were abolished.

(iv) Considerable difficulty has been experienced during the year at the Sewage Works owing to the admission of sea water. Surveys carried out both by the Engineer's Staff and this Department have revealed the admission of significant quantities of sea water through defective sewers and drains. The works necessary to remedy the matter are to be put in hand at an early date.

3.—SCAVENGING

Refuse collection and disposal is administered by the Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Disposal is by means of tipping. During the summer months periodic treatment of the tip with Gammexane was continued by the Engineer's Department to reduce fly infestation. The results were satisfactory.

4.—SCHOOL SANITATION

The sanitary accommodation provided is generally maintained in a satisfactory condition. The unsatisfactory sanitary arrangements at Holy Trinity School, previously reported, continue to exist. At the time of compiling this report (June, 1949) notification has been received that the necessary sanctions have now been obtained and that the work can now proceed.

5.—PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Routine inspections of the public conveniences in the town indicated that they were on the whole maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

Towards the end of the year a demand was made for the availability of a ladies' convenience in the High Street, Sittingbourne, during periods when the existing conveniences are closed, i.e. after 9 p.m. Enquiries are now being pursued by the Engineer and Surveyor as to the possibility of meeting the demand.

6.—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Two samples of bath water were submitted to the Public Analyst. The results were satisfactory. There continues to be room for improvement in the following respects:—

- (a) an increase in the number of shower baths provided, and insistence on their use before bathing; and
- (b) the provision of trough foot baths and insistence on their use before bathing.

SECTION V.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1.—MILK SUPPLY

(a) The following are the details of registration under the Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders:—

Registered (Cowkeepers) ...	...	...	2
Registered Purveyors for the sale of:—			
Pasteurised Milk ...	...	...	1
Ungraded Milk ...	...	...	11
Pre-packed Milk only ...	...	...	11
			— 23

- (b) (i) 10 visits were paid to Cowsheds.
- (ii) 76 visits were paid to Dairies.
- (iii) 5 visits were paid to Milkshops.

(c) Milk (Special Designations) Order.

(i) One licence was granted in connection with a Pasteurising Establishment where milk is processed by the "holder" method of pasteurisation.

(ii) One dealer's licence was granted for the bottling and sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

(d) Examination of Milk Supplies.

(i) 87 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological or other prescribed examination at the County Laboratory, Maidstone.

The following table shows details of the milk submitted:—

TABLE VII

Designation	No. of Samples	Result	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Ordinary Milk	9	9	—
Pasteurised and Heat-treated Milks	60	49	10*
Tuberculin Tested Milk	18	15	2*
TOTAL ...	87	73	12

(ii) (a) Of the 10 samples of Pasteurised Milk reported upon adversely, 7 samples failed in the methylene blue reductase test and 3 samples in the phosphatase test. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

(b) The two samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk upon which adverse reports were received failed in the methylene blue reductase test. The cause of such failure was satisfactorily dealt with and no adverse reports upon the milk were received during the latter half of the year.

(iii) Two samples of milk were submitted for Biological Test. The Pathologist's report indicated that there was no evidence of Tuberculosis.

(e) Examination of Washed Milk Bottles.

11 washed milk bottles derived from 4 dairies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. The results obtained from 3 of the dairies were entirely satisfactory and indicated

Footnote : * 1 sample of Pasteurised and 1 sample of Tuberculin Tested Milk were not examined owing to an accident.

that the recommended method of bottle washing did produce satisfactory bottles under normal commercial conditions. In the case of the fourth dairy, the results were unsatisfactory. It is significant that the dairy concerned is one of the few in the town without an adequate supply of steam and hot water. The question of the provision of a boiler for steam and hot water supply was taken up with the Dairyman concerned and steps have been initiated for the construction of a new dairy with all necessary plant.

(f) General.

(i) Dairies throughout the town are on the whole kept in a clean condition. In a number of cases adaptation or reconstruction of premises is in hand. Dairy men generally are becoming conscious of the value of scientific methods and anxious to use whatever aids are available, not only to lessen their own work, but to safeguard the public. Every effort is made to put before the trade the reason behind the Public Health requirements, the appreciation of which ensures willing co-operation.

(ii) The bulk of the milk supplied to consumers in the town whilst not sold as such, is in fact heat-treated.

(g) Milk Supply to Schools.

All milk supplied to Schools is pasteurised.

2.—MEAT •

(i) 347 visits were paid to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse, East Street, Sittingbourne, for the purpose of meat inspection.

(ii) The agreed maximum daily kill, 10 beasts, 50 smalls (sheep, calves and pigs), has continued in operation during the year, except with the prior consent of the Health Department.

(iii) The number of bovines slaughtered (1,698 in 1948) is almost the same as for 1947 (1,689). There has, however, been a considerable falling off in the number of sheep presented for slaughter. The figures quoted in Table VIII reflect the general picture throughout the country.

(iv) In spite of the decrease in the numbers slaughtered, the work of meat inspection continues to be arduous and difficult in the building now used. The Inspectors have received unfailing assistance and co-operation from the Slaughter-House Staff in the carrying out of their duties.

(v) In November, 1948, the attention of Meat Inspectors was drawn by the Ministry of Health to the recurrence of *Cysticercus Bovis* (a parasitic condition of bovines, transmissible to man in the form of tapeworm) throughout the country. Four cases have been found in the Sittingbourne slaughter-house. Specimens taken in Sittingbourne have been of the utmost assistance to Sanitary Inspectors in many districts in Kent, in their recognition of the disease.

(vi) Table VIII shows the details of the animals slaughtered together with the numbers affected with disease. The proportions of animals found affected with disease and with Tuberculosis show very little change compared with those of the preceding year.

TABLE VIII

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Total
Number Killed	1294	404	238	4362	209	6507
Number Inspected	1294	404	238	4362	209	6507
All diseases except Tuberculosis						
Whole carcasses con- demned	3	6	—	18	2	29
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	553	216	—	263	14	1046
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	42.9	54.9	—	6.4	7.6	16.0 (16.5)
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcasses con- demned	12	12	1	—	1	26
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	181	131	3	—	3	318
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	14.9	35.3	16.8	—	19.1	4.8 (4.2)

(vii) The conditions under which slaughtering and the inspection of meat are carried out in the antiquated and ill-equipped Slaughter-house in Sittingbourne leave a very great deal to be desired. Further improvements are impracticable because of the congested location of the Slaughter-house and its relation to other buildings. The Slaughter-house supplies meat to a very wide area beyond Sittingbourne and including a large part of the Swale Rural District Council and the Isle of Sheppey. The number of people dependent on a satisfactory meat supply from this Slaughter-house is therefore large and it is of utmost importance that consideration be given to the possibility of alternative arrangements being made in the very near future.

(viii) Table IX shows details of foodstuff of all types condemned during the year. The figures obtained this year bear a striking resemblance to those relating to the preceding year both in the quantity condemned and in the proportion of individual items affected.

Footnote :—Figures in brackets relate to the preceding year.

TABLE IX

			lbs.
1 Bull	...	Generalised Tuberculosis	1125
11 Cattle (excluding Cows)		Ditto	6397
2 Cattle (excluding Cows)		Emaciation and Oedema	679
1 Cattle (excluding Cows)		Sapraemia	426
12 Cows	...	Generalised Tuberculosis	6687
4 Cows	...	Emaciation and Oedema	1484
1 Cow	...	Fever—Traumatic Peritonitis	459
1 Cow	...	Septicemia	587
27 Portions of Cattle	...	Localised Tuberculosis	3726
2 Portions of Cattle	...	Nephritis	8
5 Portions of Cattle	...	Fracture and Injury	102
1 Portion of Cattle	...	Injury—Abscess	103
1 Portion of Cattle	...	Abscess	11
1 Portion of Cattle	...	Bruis'g and serious Infiltrat'n	14
1 Calf	...	Congenital Tuberculosis	137
1 Boar	...	Sapraemia	380
1 Portion of a Boar	...	Localised Tuberculosis	26
1 Pig	...	Tetanus	21
2 Portions of Pig	...	Localised Tuberculosis	38
1 Sow	...	Generalised Tuberculosis	213
1 Portion of Sow	...	Localised Tuberculosis	20
11 Sheep	...	Emaciation and Oedema	324
2 Sheep	...	Fever and Poisoning	186
1 Sheep	...	Multiple Abscesses	78
1 Sheep	...	Moribund — Poisoning by Tree Wash	38
3 Portions of Sheep	...	Bruising	18
1 Portion of Sheep	...	Injury	11
1 Portion of Sheep	...	Oedema	2
1 Ewe	...	Emaciation and Oedema	35
1 Lamb	...	Emaciation	10
1 Lamb	...	Fevered	22
Edible Offal	...		26653
Imported Udder	...	Decomposition	950
Top-piece and Rump of Beast	...	Bone Taint	187
Whale Meat Sausages	...		20
Liver Sausage	...		1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Meat Pies	...		7 $\frac{1}{2}$
Smoked Bacon	...		38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corned Beef	...		60
Geese	...	Decomposition	100
Rolled Oats	...		114
Flour	...		2
Pearl Barley	...		56
Wheat Flakes	...		1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Biscuits	...		29
Packeted Fats	...		11
Dates	...		29 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oranges	...		415
Tomatoes	...		4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fresh Eggs	...		72 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fresh Fish	...		2032
Ice Cream	...		62
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs, including canned Milk, Meat, Fruit, Vegetables, Fish, Eggs, Jams, etc.			1863
TOTAL LBS. ...			56076 $\frac{1}{2}$ (56160 $\frac{1}{2}$)
TOTAL — 25 Tons 0 Cwt. 2 Qrs. 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lbs. (25 Tons 1 Cwt. 1 Qr. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ Lbs.)			

3. By courtesy of the Chief Inspector, Weights and Measures Department, the following details of samples of food taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, in Sittingbourne and Milton are included :—

Article	No. of Samples
Baking Powder	1
Beer	2
Bismuth Tablets	1
Butter Drops	1
Butter Mints	2
Catarrh Pastilles	1
Cocoa	1
Coffee and Chicory	1
Cough Mixture	1
Farinoca	1
Flavouring Essence	1
Galantine	1
Gin	2
Ginger Wine	1
Grape Saline	1
Home-made Butters	1
Influenza Mixture	1
Jaffajuice	1
Lemon Squash	1
Margarine	1
Marmalade	1
Meat Paste	1
Milk	67
Milk of Magnesia	1
Murraymints	2
Olive Oil	1
Paraffin, Medicinal	1
Port Flavour Wine	1
Raisin Flavour Wine	1
Rusk	1
Sauce	1
Self-Raising Flour	1
Sherry	1
Whalemeat Sausage	1
Whisky	1
Yeastless Rusk	1
Total ...	106

All samples genuine with the exception of the following :—

Whisky—Adulterated
excess water

Contained
... ..

13.4%
... ..

}
Proceedings. Conviction. Fined
£5. (Outstanding from 1947).

Murraymints (buttered). —
butter fat

Contained
... ..

no
... ..

}
After consultation with the
manufacturers a new label
has been designed deleting
the word “buttered.”

Butter Drops.—Deficient in butter fat	...	...	As a result of a conference with the manufacturers the line has been withdrawn from sale
Butter Mints.—Deficient in butter fat	...	...	Manufacturers advised. Further samples to be taken.
Milk.— 4.4% extraneous water	...	...	Written caution from Chief Inspector.
Milk.— 7.0% extraneous water	...	...	
Milk.— 3.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 6.7% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.—33.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 9.4% extraneous water	...	...	Written caution from Chief Inspector.
Bitter Beer.—Slightly below original gravity	...	...	Further sample taken, but report not yet received.
Milk.— 5.0% deficient in fat	...	...	Further sample to be taken.
Milk.— 6.7% deficient in fat	...	...	Further samples taken and found to be genuine.
Milk.—10.0% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 8.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 5.0% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.—40.0% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 3.3% deficient in fat	...	...	Further samples found to be genuine.
Milk.— 6.7% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.—23.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.—13.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 5.0% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.—18.3% deficient in fat	...	...	
Milk.— 8.3% deficient in fat	...	...	Further sample to be taken.

4.—SHELLFISH

(i) The sources from which shellfish on sale in the town is derived are continually under observation so that steps can be quickly taken to prevent the sale of shellfish from unauthorised or unsatisfactory sources. No case of illness attributable to shellfish was notified during the year.

(ii) The public should be aware that it is inadvisable to purchase shellfish from other than reliable and established traders.

5.—FISH FRYING

(i) 8 Fish frying establishments are in operation in the area.

(ii) 28 visits of inspection were made.

(iii) Fried fish shops were maintained in a clean and hygienic manner. During the year many improvements in the way of reconstruction of shops, cleaning rooms and the provision of modern ranges were carried out. These improvements reflect the progressive outlook of the trade.

6.—ICE CREAM

(i) The number of premises registered for the Manufacture, Storage or Sale of Ice Cream are :—

Sale and storage of ice cream	...	...	40	(27)*
Storage of ice cream	...	...	1	(1)
Manufacture of ice cream	...	...	12	(12)

(ii) 68 samples of ice cream were submitted for examination by the Provisional Modified Methylene Blue Reduction Test. For comparative purposes 4 of the samples were in addition examined by the plate count method.

(iii) Grading of the 68 samples examined by the modified methylene blue reduction test was :—

Grade I.	...	12	(17.6%)
Grade II.	...	16	(23.5%)
Grade III.	...	10	(14.7%)
Grade IV.	...	30	(44.0%)

These results cannot be regarded as very satisfactory and reflect the constant need of skilled supervision.

(iv) Four samples were also examined by the plate count test and the results were as follows :—

- (1) 4,200 organisms per c.c. coliform bacillus absent in 1/10 ml.
- (2) 52,000 organisms per c.c. coliform bacillus absent in 1 ml.
- (3) 10,200 organisms per c.c. coliform bacillus absent in 1/100 ml.
- (4) 9,100 organisms per c.c. coliform bacillus absent in 1/10 ml.

In all these samples the result of the methylene blue test was Grade I. It is, however, recognised that the two tests may not necessarily tally owing to the different techniques involved.

(v) In view of the unsatisfactory results obtained in two plants a comprehensive investigation was made into the methods of preparation of plant, manufacture and the condition of raw materials used. In this connection 9 samples of raw materials and 6 swabs were submitted. In one case the results indicated that an Ice Cream Powder and a Stabiliser had become contaminated by reason of unsatisfactory and prolonged storage in unsuitable containers. The results of swabbing the plant at different points demonstrated to the manufacturers concerned the necessity for the utmost care in sterilizing utensils and equipment. The ice cream produced under this close degree of supervision attained Grade I.

Footnote : * Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

standard ; it is therefore not unreasonable to expect manufacturers to attain and to maintain the same high standard in the purity of this product.

(vi) The results obtained during the year indicate that there is still considerable room for improvement in the hygienic standard attained and it is undoubtedly necessary that a considerable amount of time should be spent by the Health Department in inculcating into the worker and manufacturer those basic principles of hygiene which must be followed if satisfactory results and safe products are to become the rule. It is a matter of regret that, with the present commitments of the Health Department, it is not possible to ensure the maintenance of this standard of supervision and education.

7.—BAKEHOUSES

(i) Eight bakehouses are registered and in operation in the area. (8)*

(ii) Twenty-three visits of inspection were made. (26)*

8.—RESTAURANT KITCHENS

(i) The number of Restaurant Kitchens (including Works Canteens) in the area is 25. (23)*

(ii) Fifty visits of inspection were made.

(iii) Opportunity was taken during the year to bring to the notice of restaurateurs the benefits derived from the use of suitable detergents in the washing of crockery, glasses and cutlery and particular stress was laid on the necessity for working out and maintaining a suitable technique to reduce the risks of food infection.

(iv) There is a greater need for education of all concerned to ensure the highest standard of hygiene.

9.—PUBLIC HOUSES

(i) During the year an investigation was carried out into the methods employed to wash glasses in these premises.

(ii) The advantages of using a quaternary ammonia compound detergent were put before the trade. As a result of the Health Department's work in this direction and the ready co-operation of the local Licensed Victuallers' Association it is pleasing to note that the use of detergents has been widely accepted with benefit to all concerned.

10.—FOOD PREPARING PREMISES

(i) Twenty-one premises are registered for the manufacture of sausages and preserved food. (21)*

(ii) Sixty-four visits of inspection were made. (34)*

Footnote : * Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

11.—RODENT CONTROL

(i) The Council employ one part-time Rodent Operator.

(ii) The following table gives details of the work carried out during the year:—

TABLE X

	Complaints of infestations Notified by Public	Additional infestations found on Survey	Complaints of infestations Ill-founded	Complete treatments	Treated by Occupier	Under or awaiting treatment	Estimated killed by Poisons	By Trapping	Visits made (including routine Survey)
Rats	77 (44)*	12 (9)	20 (14)	51 (35)	9 (12)	9 (2)	800 (601)	88 (62)	2,581 (1,703)
Mice	45 (10)	5 (—)	2 (—)	48 (—)	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	44 (74)	
Totals	122	17	22	99	9	9	800	132	2,581

(iii) Particular attention was paid during the year to infestation of food premises. Useful work was carried out in abating mice infestations in this class of premises and thus minimizing the risk of food infections to the public.

SECTION VI.

HOUSING, DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

1.—DISINFECTION

(i) Eighty rooms at 56 premises were disinfected on account of infectious disease. Formaldehyde was used in each case.

(ii) All library books found at premises where a case of notifiable disease has occurred are disinfected by formaldehyde before being returned to circulation.

(iii) Difficulties have been experienced in dealing with infected bedding since the coming into force of the National Health Service

Footnote : * Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

Act, in so far as their disinfection at Keycol Hill Hospital (vide para. 4 (b), Section III.).

2.—DISINFESTATION

(i) The following tables indicate the work carried out during the year:—

				Infestations	
				Premises	Rooms
Council Houses	...	...	...	-	-
Other Houses	...	...	...	21	40
				—	—
TOTAL ...				21	40
				—	—

				Infestations	
				Premises	Rooms
Council Houses	...	...	...	-	-
Other Houses	...	...	...	5	9
				—	—
TOTAL ...				5	9
				—	—

				Infestations	
				Premises	Rooms
Council Houses	...	...	...	9	13
Other Houses	...	...	...	22	29
Other Premises	...	...	...	1	1
				—	—
TOTAL ...				32	43
				—	—

(ii) The main insecticides used during the year have been 5% D.D.T. in Kerosene, and Gammexane. Suitable infestations have been dealt with by means of Gammexane Powder. The use of D.D.T. and Gammexane in the form of smoke, referred to in the last annual report, was not continued to any extent during the year under review.

(iii) Two infestations dealt with during the year are worthy of note:—

(a) During October, 1948, a complaint was received concerning an infestation of flies in the roof space of a dwelling house in Ruins Barn Road. Investigations revealed the presence of literally thousands of flies in the roof space. An initial treatment of the roof space was carried out using D.D.T. in the form of a smoke and finally the interior of the roof space was treated with Gammexane powder.

The flies were indentified by the British Museum Department of Entomology as a mixture of two species, viz.: *Pollenia rudis* (the "Cluster Fly") and *Dasyphora cyanella*. Both breed in open fields, the former as a parasite of earth worms and the latter in animal droppings. In the autumn they come indoors to hibernate.

(b) In May, 1948, an infestation of several houses on the Council's Ufton Lane estate by a small mite was investigated. Large numbers were found on the external walls of the houses and on windows, both outside and inside. These mites were identified as the Common "Clover Mite" (*Bryopia pratiosa* Koch) which are not injurious to health.

3.—COMMON LODGING HOUSES

(i) One common lodging house is registered. The accommodation available being 30 beds.

(ii) The premises continue to be managed on satisfactory lines.

(iii) Difficulty was experienced by the Keeper in obtaining supplies of sheets and pillow slips. Representations were made to the appropriate authority in an effort to assist the Keeper to obtain necessary supplies, but without avail. The position will probably rectify itself now that such materials are no longer rationed.

4.—SERVICE OF NOTICE REQUIRING THE EXECUTION OF WORKS OR THE ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|--------|
| (a) | 693 informal notices served. | (568)* |
| (b) | 65 statutory notices served. | (11) |
| (c) | 605 informal notices complied with. | (494) |
| (d) | 55 statutory notices complied with. | (11) |

5.—VISITS MADE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

The following table indicates the number and type of visits paid by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

TABLE XI

Premises	Primary Inspections	Revisits
Dwelling Houses—On complaint	502	2377
" " —On complaint, no nuisance found	79	—
" " —Own observation	137	—
" " —Housing Acts Inspections	54	5
" " —Infectious Disease	20	—
Other Premises	16	—
Visits with No Access	173	24
Bakehouses	23	—
Caravans, Tents, etc.	9	—
Common Lodging Houses	6	—
Cowsheds	10	—
Dairies	76	—
Factories—Mechanical Power	122	3
Factories—No Mechanical Power	14	—
Factories—Workplaces	11	6
Fish Frying	28	4
Food and Drugs Act Visits	185	115
Food and Drugs Samples	2	—
Food Preparation Premises	64	—
Food Storage Premises	24	—
Interviews	1940	—
Ice Cream Premises	118	—
Infectious Disease Enquiries	39	—
Insect Pests Investigation	25	—
Milkshops	5	—
Milk—Bacteriological Sample	83	—
Market and Shops	14	1
Marine Stores	1	—
Offices	1	—
Restaurant Kitchens	50	2
Rats and Mice Destruction	66	2
Rooms Disinfected	1	—
Shops Act, Sec. 10	42	14
Slaughterhouses	347	—
Schools	4	—
Smoke Observations	2	—
Stables and Piggeries	3	—
Smallpox Contacts	2	2
Theatres and Amusement Halls	6	—
Urinals, Public and Private	35	—
Water Samples	30	—
Miscellaneous	588	—
Housing Applicants—Visits made	276	—
Food Poisoning Investigations	18	6
Public Houses	58	—
Water Samples—Swimming Bath	1	—
Dwelling Houses—Overcrowded	1	—
Kemsley Camp	21	—
Committee Meetings	25	—
Wet Fish Shops	9	—
Ice Cream Samples	78	—
Milk Bottles for Bacteriological Examination	11	—
Misc. Bact. Samples (Ice Cream)	8	—
Mortuary	1	—
TOTALS ...	5464 (3916)*	2561 (1682)

Footnote : * Figures in brackets relate to preceding year.

6.—NUISANCES ABATED

The following tables indicate the number and character of the nuisances abated during the year:—

TABLE XII

General							Total
Drainage—Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
„ —Tested or Exposed	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
„ —Repaired, Trapped, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ —Unstopped	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
„ —Chambers inserted	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ —Repaired to Chambers or New Covers	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cesspools—Emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Replaced by Water Carriage	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Septic Tank System of Sewage Disposal Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Soil or Vent Pipes—New fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ —Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water Closets—Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ —Repaired or Supplied with Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
„ „ —New Pans or Pedestals Fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
„ „ —Additional Constructed or Reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Waste Pipes, Repaired or Trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Waste Pipes or R.W.P.'s Disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
R.W.P.'s and Eaves Gutters Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Sinks provided or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Privy Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total							522 (513)*

TABLE XIII

Sundry Nuisances Abated							Total
Animals, Fowls, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of Refuse	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Brickwork or Pointings	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Coppers Repaired or Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dustbins	...	...	...	...	...	...	211
Fireplaces and Stoves Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Flooring and Other Woodwork	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Floors, Concrete or Quarried	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Plaster Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	111
Roofs made Watertight	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Walls and Ceilings Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Water Supply Reinstated or made sufficient	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Windows, Cords, Fasteners and Glass	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Verminous Rooms Fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ventilation Sub-Floor Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and Passages Paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Additional Windows Provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney Stacks Rebuilt or Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supply taken into House	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chimney Pot Renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total							707 (366)*

Footnote : * Figures in brackets relate to preceding year

7.—HOUSING

(i) During the year it was found possible to provide housing accommodation for 90 families, as follows:—

- (a) 3 families rehoused in existing temporary houses.
- (b) 14 families rehoused in pre-war Council houses.
- (c) 60 families rehoused in post-war Council houses.
- (d) 13 families rehoused in privately owned houses by arrangement with the owners concerned.

(ii) In addition temporary accommodation was provided for 6 families at Kemsley Hutments.

(iii) During November, 1948, a re-registration of applicants who had applied prior to April, 1948, was carried out. 1,050 re-registration forms were sent out. At the end of December, 1948, 511 applicants had returned their forms, whilst 443 had failed to do so. In 96 cases the applicant replied that the application should be cancelled.

(iv) Including 170 applicants who had applied since April, 1948, the total “live” list at 31st December, 1948, numbered **681**.

(v) An analysis was made of the 681 applications on the housing list, as follows:—

	No.	Percentage
(a) Applicants living and working outside Sittingbourne	51	7.5
(b) Single applicants	3	0.4
(c) Applicants who are tenants of houses within the Urban District	129	18.9
(d) Applicants who reside outside Sittingbourne and work within the Urban District	70	10.3
(e) Applicants residing in Kemsley Hutments	11	1.6
(f) Applicants living in rooms as sub-tenants or lodgers within the Urban District	417	61.2
TOTAL ...	681	

(vi) The 681 applications were also analysed in terms of family units, as follows:—

Single Applicants	...	...	...	...	3
Man and Wife	...	...	...	...	204
Man and Wife and one Child	...	...	...	...	272
Man and Wife and two Children	...	...	...	...	125
Man and Wife and three Children	...	...	...	...	35
Man and Wife and four Children	...	...	...	...	17
Man and Wife and five Children	...	...	...	...	18
Man and Wife and six Children	...	...	...	...	4
Man and Wife and seven Children	...	...	...	...	3

(vii) The analysis quoted in para. vi. indicates that generally the problem continues to be one of providing housing accommodation for a large number of small family units. The number of families who could quite well be housed in two-bedroomed accommodation total 479 and 70.3% of the total list. This latter percentage has remained fairly constant since March, 1947. The percentage for similar surveys in March, 1947, and August, 1948, being 73.4%.

(viii) Unfortunately there are not sufficient data available to enable the Council to formulate a policy which would ensure that in a given time there would be the correct proportion of the different types of accommodation available in the town. A comprehensive survey is necessary to obtain information of this character as well as information on the houses suitable for repairs under the Housing Act now under discussion. With the available Staff, at present, it is quite impossible to carry out a survey of this character and much information is thereby lost which would be invaluable in the formulation of a long term housing policy by the Council.

(ix) A serious problem which has to be faced in any question of rehousing is that of high rental brought about mainly by the great increase in the cost of house construction and partly by reason of improved standards. The following table indicates the result of analysis of family income, carried out on the 681 applicants on the "live" list.

TABLE XIV

DETAILS	Under £2	£2 to £2.10.0	£2.10.0 to £3	£3 to £3.10.0	£3.10.0 to £4	£4 to £4.10.0	£4.10.0 to £5	£5 to £6	£6 to £7	£7 to £8	£8 and over	Income not Stated	TOTALS
Single ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	3
Man and Wife ...	-	-	4	-	-	19	54	84	31	4	6	2	204
Man, Wife and one Child ...	2	2	2	2	3	19	51	117	53	11	7	3	272
Man, Wife and two Children ...	-	2	-	-	2	4	26	51	22	9	8	1	125
Man, Wife and three Children ...	1	-	1	-	-	2	7	17	2	4	-	1	35
Man, Wife and four Children ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	3	-	3	1	17
Man, Wife and five Children ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8	3	1	2	2	18
Man, Wife and six Children ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
Man, Wife and seven Children ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	3
TOTALS	3	4	7	2	5	44	144	289	116	29	28	10	681

(x) Assuming that a reasonable proportion of the family's income to expend on rent is 1/6th and that the rent of a post-war Council house is 25/-d inclusive, it will be noted that 614, or 90% of the applicants cannot afford the prevailing rents (91.6% in August, 1948).

(xi) Unless means can be devised whereby building costs are materially reduced in the not too distant future, families in the lower income groups who are often most in need of improved housing accommodation, will be compelled to continue to live in unsatisfactory conditions to the detriment of themselves and the whole community.

(xii) The condition of many houses, particularly those in the older part of the town, is giving grave concern to the Health Department. Many houses in these areas are obsolete and unfit for human habitation. Whilst it is appreciated that at the present time there are great difficulties preventing clearance of unfit property, nevertheless it is becoming more and more difficult to ensure even a minimum standard of fitness, mainly because owing to low rents and high costs of building work, it is uneconomic to carry out even comparatively minor repairs and replacements in this class of property.

The present position can only lead to a further deterioration in the life of the community.

(xiii) (a)	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year for housing defects	772
(b)	Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	34
(c)	Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(d)	Number of houses found defective in some essential particular	639
(e)	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices	605
(f)	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—	
(i)	Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(ii)	Proceedings under Public Health Act	65
(iii)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	5
(iv)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	—

(g) New Houses:—

(i) Total number erected by Local Authority
during year 54

(ii) Total number erected by Private Persons
during year 6

(h) Clearance Areas.—No action during the year.

SECTION VII.

FACTORIES ADMINISTRATION

1.—FACTORIES ACT, 1937

(i) Number of Factories on Register:—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power) 53

(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power) 12

(c) Other Premises 3

(ii) Number of Inspections:—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power) 122

(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power) 14

(iii) Number of Written Notices:—

(a) Factories (Mechanical Power) 4

(b) Factories (No Mechanical Power) 2

(iv) Cases in which defects were found:—

NUMBER OF CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	3	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) insufficient	1	2	—	1
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	1	10	—	3
(c) not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	5	9	1	—
Totals ...	7	24	1	4

APPENDIX I.

TEMPERATURE AND RAINFALL

Month	Temperature		Rainfall (inches)
	Maximum	Minimum	
January	55	24	3.61
February	46	35	1.75
March	57	38	0.87
April	74	32	1.71
May	76	33	1.81
June	86	44	3.27
July	88	45	1.62
August	84	42	2.66
September	78	35	1.59
October	72	26	1.53
November	61	24	1.50
December	58	18	3.42
TOTAL RAINFALL (inches) ...			25.34